

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the claim amendments and the following remarks. In the Office action mailed on January 26, 2005, claim 50 was objected to because of a typographical error. Claims 27-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103 as being unpatentable in view of Donlon and Wolfe. Applicant believes that all of the claims as previously submitted are patentable over the art of record. However, for the purpose of advancing prosecution, applicant has cancelled claims 47-51, and amended independent claim 27 to clarify distinctions between the claimed invention and the prior art which provide significant advances in function and benefit.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Independent claim 27 has been amended to recite features of particular structural components, for example, "rafter components" as illustrated in Figures 17-22. Support for the amendments can be found in those figures and corresponding text in the specification on pages 23-26.

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests the beneficial interconnecting structure, for example, employing the structural rafter component with sets of hook structures for interconnecting plastic frame members on three or more sides. Donlon shows internal hook members for retaining coupling of two components end to end. However, Donlon fails to teach or suggest anything similar to the claimed rafter component. Further, Donlon fails to teach or suggest any mechanism for connecting plastic modular building components in a fashion which permits relative rotational and translational motion between the building components, as claimed.

Wolfe also fails to teach or suggest applicant's claimed building system. In particular, absent from Wolfe's patent disclosure is any suggestion of a rafter component for mounting on top of a column and interconnecting multiple plastic structural frame members via sets of hook structures.


The De Zen reference also fails to teach or suggest the claimed building system. De Zen discloses thermoplastic connectors with "grooves and edge tongues" for interlocking. However, De Zen's connectors are fundamentally different from applicant's claimed connectors because they are designed to receive concrete. Holes are provided in the connectors to facilitate flow of concrete through the internal spaces. Thus, De Zen's teachings result in a substantially concrete building, not a plastic building, as claimed in the present application. In contrast, applicant's claim 27 recites, among other details, that the rafter component has "internal diagonal rigidifying support structure." The objective and results obtained with applicant's claimed invention is completely different than De Zen's who discloses a system for building, a substantially concrete building. In De Zen's system, the plastic connectors function mainly as molds for receiving the structural material, i.e., concrete. Whereas, in applicant's building system, plastic elements including the rafter component are designed to provide the necessary structural strength with the ability to manage load by permitting tolerated relative rotational and translational movement between building components, without the need for filling or anchoring to conventional building materials such as concrete, wood, or metal materials.

Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance. Please contact applicant's undersigned attorney if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application.

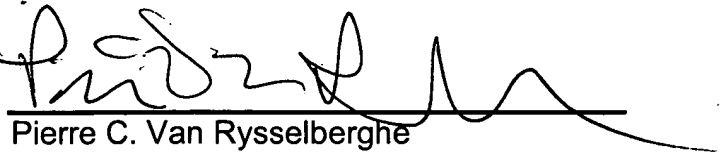
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 26, 2005.


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Date of Signature: July 26, 2005

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